



OMICS PRESENTS



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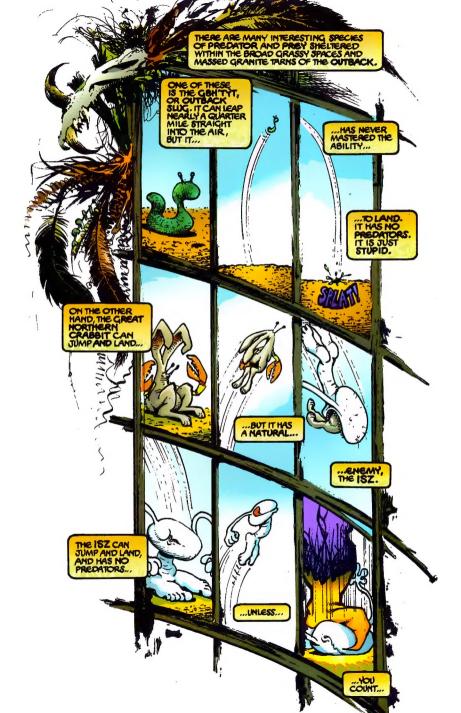
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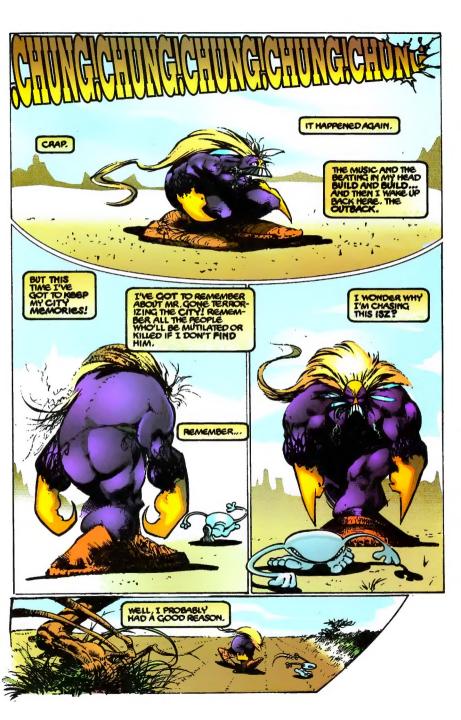
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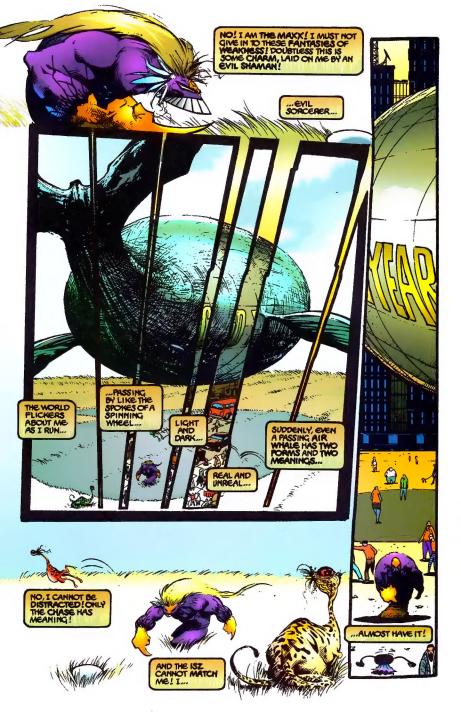
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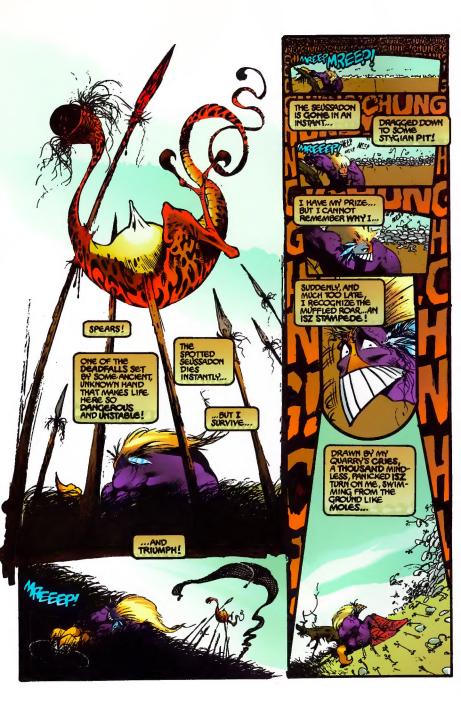




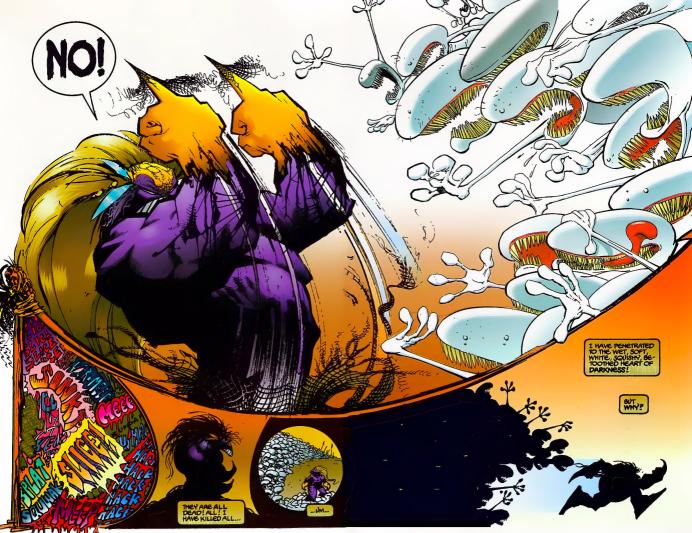
































AND SOMEWHERE IN THE WILD LAND, IN THE LAND OF DREAMS, IN PANGAEA... HER BETTER SELF WAS IMPRISONED, BY HER OWN SELF-LOATHING.

> I DUNNO. SEEMS LIKE IF SOMEBODY'S RAPED, IT'S NOT LIKE A TEST YOU FAILED OR A JOB WHERE YOU'GET FIRED ...

GONE TOLD ME. I DON KNOW IF I BELIEVED ANYTHING HE SAID, LEAST OF ALL ABOUT JULIE. HEY, MAXX. SAVE THE LIBERAL -FEMINIST GARBAGE FOR SOMEONE WHO CARES, KAY?

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT

IT'S SOMEBODY

ELSE'S GUILT FOR
ONCE! YOU GET TO
HAVE YOUR OWN
ANGER
AND...

SORRY. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRY-ING TO WATCH OUT FOR ME, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO BUT ITS OVER NOW. I CUT THE BASTARDS HEAD FREE YOU CHASED HIM BACK TO GOD-KNOWS-WHERE, IT'S OVER.



IN FACT, I WAS ALREADY HAVING TROUBLE REMEM-BERING THE DETAILS OF WHAT HE SAID. IT WAS LIKE A DREAM.



A REALLY BAD DREAM.





Letters! We're getting hundreds of letters from all over the world, and Maxx is mighty grateful. Sorry we won't be able to answer all of these—if Sam did personal art criticism, collaboration, or original sketches, for example, he'd have no time to get the book out. Also: the Image guys work as individuals, so there is no submissions editor. Please remember, too, that whatever you send in might get lost or mutilated in the mail. Never send originals that you want back. I know all this may sound a little discouraging, but if it takes me a million years, I'm gonna read every one of these little suckers that you guys sent in.

Here's more stuff people wrote:

Dear Sam,
Does Br'er like Pez?
Tom Maestas

Yes, very much. Maxx is a Pez freak. He also likes toast.

Colorado Sprinas, Colorado

Sam,
Do the isz have eyes?
David Carrier
Windham, ME

The isz have no eyes; they must use their sense of smell to find their direction.

Dear Sam,

I'm not the biggest, strongest, or smartest kid in school. In fact, I'm pretty much ignored and looked down on by most of the other kids. That's why I like The Maox. As powerful and strong as he is in the Outback, he's always an underdog in the real world. Make Mine Maox!

(name withheld by request)

Dear Sam,

My letter was printed in the Maxx #1. However, the name of my city is not "Woodsocket" as it appeared, but it is spelled "Woonsocket." Thank you very much for your time.

Eddie Tellier WOONSOCKET, Rhode Island

Sorry we got that wrong. Thanks for writing to clear it up.

Dear Sam.

The Maxx #1 was filled with great art, although the story was a bit strange. I'm sure that many of the questions I have will be cleared up in later issues.

Fan to the Maxx, Shane Walsh Oak Lawn, Illinois

P.S. One question before I go: does the pattern around the panels mean anything? Do they spell something or what?

Yes they do. The first person to figure out what that is will win ten, no eight, well how 'bout...just kidding!



Dear Sam Kieth.

Why don't girls in my town dress in pants like Julia's?
Vincent Hernandez
Grand Prairie. Texas

They do, Vince. You're just on the wrong side of town.

To Whom It May Concern (Mr. Sam Kieth, yeah you), I wrote this letter in response to your request for a name for the letter column. (If I win), that glow-in-the-dark first issue could really help me. You see, I go on vacation to an Amish village and they don't use any type of light except for candles and I have fire-a-phobia, that is, the fear of fire, so a glow-in-the-dark comic book would help me a lot. Even if I don't win, your contribution of any glow-in-the-dark object would gladly be appreciated. Just send it to the above address, monetary donations are also gladly appreciated.

Brian D. Gabriel Portsmouth, Rhode Island



P.S. Most of the above is bull #!@".

P.S., P.S. The poor guy who wrote in last issue, Eddie Teller, does not live in Woodsocket, R.I., being that there is no Woodsocket, R.I.

I think you mean Woonsocket, R. I., which is in fact a real place, in comparison with Woodsocket, R. I. the non-existent place printed in your comic.

Dear Mr. Kieth,
Does the social health
worker have some strange
power of switching her
belt mid-page, or is it just
a manifestation of something bigger. . .

Glen S. Colen Burke, Virginia

Well, I'm gonna opt for the Manifestation of Something Bigger Theory. It's a heck of a lot better than the Sam Screwed Up and Forgot to Draw the Belt on the Left Side Just Like He Drew It on the Right Side Theory.

Sam,

Why the hell did you give Julia pit hairs? A pot belly was bad enough, but pit hairs! Jeez!

(name withheld by accident sorry) Redondo Beach, California

I was gonna answer this letter, but the letter below answers it for me.

Mr. Kieth.

My wife told me to write you and thank you for drawing women with bodies like hers; all women aren't as perfect as some of the women drawn in comics. ...but, that doesn't make them less appealing. .just less perfect.

Toby Mays Eureka, California

Amen.

Dear Sam Kieth,

Do you realize that because of you, bellbottoms are going to come back even faster?

Regards, Guerin Payne Chula Vista, California

Yes, and I still don't care.

Dear Sam,

Is Maxx really homeless? And if so, why does Julie dump him out on the street every time she busts him out of jail? What kind of a social worker is she?

Ciao, Matthew Skoufalos Sewell, New Jersey

Dysfunctional?

Dear Sam,

I'm a housewife with two kids. It's a little strange for a housewife to collect comic books but I do it. The Maxx was my first comic book of Image that I bought and I'm proud of you. The drawing and everything of it was great. Keep up the great job. You have a great talent. God bless your talent.

Sincerely, Annette Lopez Brooklyn, New York.

Thanks for writing. It's great to hear from female comic fans.

Hey Sam!

I was wondering if you were a Prince fan, 'cause his two favorite colors are purple and yellow (these are The Maxx's colors). And in his last album he's got a song entitled The Max. Did he forget an X?

Tony Garcia, Bronx, New York

Wow! That means that when

Prince wrote that Max song, I was drawing The Maxx comic at the same time! What do you think the odds are that, without either of us knowing what the other was doing, we'd do something so similar? Do you suppose that, with Prince being regarded as one of the foremost performers of his generation, fusing many different styles, he has some sort of a link with me artistically? Or is the only link that we are both short with a poor sense of fashion.





Hidin' in your trash can, David "The Polish Rocket" Beach Harbor Bluffs, Florida



That's right, Dave. The Maxx is a weird book for weird people. Anybody that doesn't like weird books should stay away. It'll just burn off the weak and make the weirder stronger, so we gotta stick together, us weird, happy-meal-lovin' Maxxheads. And speaking of Maxx-heads. .

Dear Sam.

Praises, praises, praises. The Maxx was fabulous. As far as 1'm concerned, the most valued comic in my collection.

I noticed in the previews for June you have The Maxx T-shirts coming out (which I ordered). How about posters!? Also, is there any plan for a Maxx fan club?

Michelle Stickle Montgomery, Alabama

More about possible posters later. As to a fan club, we'd have to have a president, someone who has some experience at that sort of thing, who's ORGANIZED, and who's willing to work long, thankless hours for no pay, putting out newsletters and so on. I wonder where we'd get such a person. . . Or if we could even use a fan club. . .



Sam, Will you ever show The Maxx picking his nose? Jesus Lee Lambertville, New Jersey

You know, I like to think of myself as being as weird as the next guy, but this question stretches even my limits.

Dear Sam,

I know you won't put up with a lot of accolades, but bringing in Is (or Isz) from Critters was a lot of fun, as was the fact that this MAXX is actually "Max the Hare" from COMICO PRIMER #5.

One more thing—on page 19 of Maxx #1, there was a note saying "Call Sam—585-9110." Well, I did, and it was disconnected. Was this just for suckers like myself?

Chris Bonham Santa Barbara, California

No, Maxx didn't pay his phone bill. Actually, that whole thing started with Jim Sinclair, my finisher, who inked

the background on that page. By the way, if you ever wonder what Jim does, it's this: most of the time, I pencil the main characters and the foreground figures. Jim tends to handle the background figures. For an example of something that's looks completely like me, check out the first four pages of Maxx #1, which I penciled and inked. For an example of what Jim's work looks like solo, check out the last panel on page 21 of issue #1that was all him. I also did all of Darker Image #1 (I know it says he did it, but that's a goof). Anyway, Jim put "555," a prefix which doesn't actually exist. I thought that was boring, so changed it to "585." The whole episode wasn't designed to make anyone feel like a sucker. But do us a favor-don't call up strange phone numbers you find on Maxx's walls. . .

Dear Sam,
What are those doughnuts on Maxx's shoes?
Sincerely,
Emerick Tackett
Topanga, California





Doughnuts? Doughnuts? Gee, I never really thought they looked like doughnuts. Bagels, maybe. . .

Sam,

Thank you! The Maxx is a refreshing step away from the normal run of comics. At first, I must admit, I severely disliked your work in Marvel Comics Presents, but it seems when an artist works for himself rather than a company, his (or her) satisfaction with oneself is apparent. Question: does Julie want Maxx for his body or for his mind?

David McCollum Huntsville, Alabama

At the risk of sounding really pretentious, Julia wants Maxx more spiritually than anything else, since Maxx is really just a part of Julia, in the spirit world, anyway.

Dear Mr. Kieth,

Maxx #1 was great. Nothing like a twisted superhere that doesn't remember anything, chases footand-a-half black things, and talks out loud!

A new fan, Michael Clark Havs, Kansas

Dear Sirs at Image Comics,

I have only been reading comics for a year now. My husband introduced them to me. I used to think they were childish. But ever since I started reading Image, I've done a complete turnaround. The Moox #1 further proves comics are worth reading, enjoying, and admiring fine artists such as yourself. You have a fan for life

Valerie Acree LaGrange, Kentucky

This is a pretty cool letter. Thanks from me and all the Image guys.

Dear Sam.

The Maxx #1 was truly mind-boggling. First of all, he trashes a squirt named Teego and gets arrested for threatening a brute named Fridge. Then he gets balled out by a babe-and-a-half. I mean, don't get

me wrong, but what would a babe like that want with a purple and yellow, large, oversized guy with one heck of an overbite?

> Joel Hughes Kingstree, South Carolina

Hey, man! Big purple and yellow guys with huge overbites are good for all sort of things.

Dear Sam Kieth,

I found your character, The Maxx, interesting in that it could be a Simosthenuras occidentalis.

Actually, I was reading a book about Tasmania and came across a passage about some funny-looking animals. Strangely enough, your character could be a taloned kangaroo. It definitely has the feet for it. Was this your original intention?

Might Maxx be a kangaroo?
Thanks for listening,
Jon Hager
Portland, Oreaon

First totem poles, now Simosthenuras occidentalis?

Dear Sam and the gang,
I just read The Maox #1 and
Darker Image #1 with the
Maox story, and I was suitably
impressed! I am very happy
that Bill Messner-Loebs has
signed on to do the dialogue, as
his old comic Journey is still one of
my all-time favorites. Speaking of
which, that chase scene in Darker
Image #1 seemed like such a
tribute to Bill, that I pulled
out Journey #1 to re-read
"The Chase."

Keep up the good work, and I am glad to see that bell-bottoms haven't gone out of style in the comic book world!

Jeff Mason Gainesville, Florida

I'm glad to see that Bill Loebs hasn't gone out of style in the comic book world. If you liked the tribute to Bill, check out Epicurus #2, which contains an even more exacting tribute to Bill's famous Journey bear-chasing sequence. (Most of our readers by now are scratching their noggin and thinking what? huh? What the heck are they talking about. You ought to check out some of the old 1 Before E comics that I did back when I was cutting my teeth...)

In this tiny corner of comic books, we keep the bellbottom ' light burning.

